

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

GREAT LAKES RESTORATION
INITIATIVE ACT OF 2016

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 26, 2016

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 223, the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Act of 2016.

The Great Lakes provide clean drinking water for over 40 million Americans. The region supports an estimated 1.5 million jobs, and generates over \$60 billion in annual wages. Protecting the Great Lakes supports public health, public lands and beaches, local economies, and job creation.

In Minnesota, the restoration of Lake Superior and the St. Louis River is vital to our State and our tribal nations. In 1987, the St. Louis River Estuary was classified as an Area of Concern because of contamination from decades of dumping untreated sewage and industrial waste into the water. Since that designation, millions of dollars have been invested in cleanup, restoration, and infrastructure.

We've started to see some measureable improvements along the St. Louis River that are lowering human health risks, re-establishing sturgeon spawning grounds and wild rice beds, and increasing property values. We have a clear path forward involving all stakeholders in the Roadmap to Delisting for the Area of Concern.

Mr. Speaker, the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) has been a huge driver of the progress that Minnesota has made in cleaning up the St. Louis River. Success stories like this are spread all across our region because of the federal investments made by the GLRI. These funds have driven public-private partnerships that support the health of our waters and the quality of life for all Americans.

More than 100,000 acres of wetlands and 48,000 acres of coastal, upland, and island habitat have been protected, restored and enhanced in just the first five years of GLRI partnerships between the federal agencies, states and tribal nations.

H.R. 223 would authorize \$300 million a year for the crucial work of the GLRI, which will help remediate areas of environmental concern, control invasive species, restore habitat and wildlife, and support local businesses. Every federal dollar put into Great Lakes restoration generates \$2 in economic benefit, making restoration an excellent return on investment for taxpayer dollars.

The Great Lakes are a national treasure. The Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Act will build on the successes of recent years and ensure the lakes are protected for generations to come.

DISAPPROVING DEPARTMENT OF
LABOR RULE RELATED TO DEFINITION
OF THE TERM "FIDUCIARY"

SPEECH OF

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 28, 2016

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, the following is a letter that was submitted to our office by Christopher A. Iacovella, Esq., the Chief Executive Officer for the Equity Dealers of America, expressing the organization's support for H.J. Res. 88, "Disapproving the rule submitted by the Department of Labor relating to the definition of the term 'Fiduciary,'" on April 28, 2016:

DEAR SPEAKER RYAN AND LEADER PELOSI: The Equity Dealers of America (EDA) is writing to you today to urge the U.S. House of Representatives to take up and pass H.J. Res. 88, 'Disapproving the rule submitted by the Department of Labor relating to the definition of the term "Fiduciary".'

The EDA represents the interests of middle market financial services firms who provide "Main Street" businesses with access to capital and advise hardworking Americans how to create and preserve wealth. Our geographically diverse membership includes BB&T Securities (NC), D.A. Davidson & Co. (MT), Hilliard Lyons (KY), Hilltop Securities (TX), Janney Montgomery Scott (PA), KeyBanc Capital Markets (OH), Piper Jaffray (MN), Raymond James Financial (FL), Robert W. Baird & Co. (WI), Stephens Inc. (AR), Stifel Nicolaus & Company (MO), William Blair & Company (IL), and Wunderlich Securities (TN).

We strongly believe that Department of Labor exceeded its Congressionally granted authority when it finalized its "Fiduciary Rule" on April 6, 2016. We believed prior to the passage of the rule passage, and continue to believe now, that this rule will (1) reduce access to financial advice for low and middle income Americans; (2) increase costs for retirees by pushing them into inappropriate and expensive fee based financial solutions; and (3) unnecessarily interfere with an individual's ability to make his/her personal choices about investing and saving for retirement.

We strongly support the U.S. House of Representatives as it takes up H.J. 88 and we look forward to its swift passage.

MINIMUM WAGE

SPEECH OF

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 28, 2016

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the hard work and dedication of workers in our district in Houston and Harris County, Texas who deserve a living wage, and I call on Congress to vote on raising the minimum wage.

There are over 10 million Americans working full time today who earn below the poverty line—under \$24,000 a year for a family of four.

In my home state of Texas, over 450,000 people are paid the minimum wage, more than any other state.

African-Americans and Hispanics are the most likely in our country to be among the working poor. Nearly 1-in-7 black and Hispanic Americans work full-time and live below the poverty line.

Eight percent of all working women in our country, 5.5 million Americans, are among the working poor.

Mr. Speaker, this is simply not right. Our country must value hard work and pay our workers a living wage if we are going to compete in the 21st century.

I am a proud original cosponsor of the Raise the Wage Act. This bill would raise the minimum wage nationwide to \$12 an hour by 2020, and index the minimum wage to inflation afterwards, giving 35 million Americans—more than one in four—a raise.

Increasing the minimum wage would raise earnings by nearly \$80 billion and grow our economy when millions of Americans can finally afford to buy a new television, automobile, or home.

This bill would end the unfair treatment of tipped workers by giving waiters and waitresses the same minimum wage as other workers.

America is a hardworking and compassionate country. We can no longer stand by while millions of our neighbors continue to live in poverty despite their great efforts.

I urge my colleagues to stand with the American people and demand a vote to raise the minimum wage.

IN RECOGNITION OF RADNOR
MIDDLE SCHOOL**HON. PATRICK MEEHAN**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 29, 2016

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Radnor Middle School on being named a Don Eichhorn Schools: "Schools to Watch." Radnor Middle School is just one of six schools in Pennsylvania to earn this distinction this year.

The "Schools to Watch" list was developed by the National Forum to Accelerate Middle Grades Reform. The program identifies middle schools where students are excelling academically and where teachers and administrators are improving curriculum and instruction, responding to the needs and interests of their students, and helping all students achieve success at high levels.

Mr. Speaker, Radnor Middle School has demonstrated its commitment to continued improvement and to educating young adolescents for future academic, social and professional success. I congratulate Radnor Middle

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